



Vuk' Africa Tours and Training
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***Sanibonani!* Greetings from the Valley! — August 2011**

It's sad to say that after six months have passed it was necessary to say good-bye to our promotions manager Hanna Botzkowski. We thank Hanna for her efforts, skills, and time; her work with Vuk' Africa will be appreciated for many years to come.

Vuk' Africa continues to employ, empower, develop, and feature the many wonderful talents of the people in the Valley. VA is now looking for a few new tour guides who are qualified in culture guiding; contact Nosipho Ntuli to schedule an interview.

DISCOVERING NEW TALENT

We welcome “Amasehla Ngemdololwane Group,” our newly employed men's dance group. They will be showcasing their talent in our Vuk' Africa tours. These young guys are amazing performers who smash the ground or floor in a unique way. For those of you who've already gone on and enjoyed one or more of our Africa tours, we know that you'll appreciate touring with VA again so you can be entertained by these sensational performers.

Formed in 2004, Amasehla Ngemdololwane Group has been dancing at different ceremonies just for fun; this will be their first occasion to use their talents to earn an income. Vuk' Africa is proud of these young people; they'll soon be seen by people from all over the world and that may lead to more international performances. Stay tuned.



TRAINING FOR HOST FAMILIES

Vuk' Africa hosted its second training for host families on 29 May 2011; the first one was in 2009. Skills that host families shared this year included hospitality, cross culture, and hygiene. VA feels that this year's training was a big success because one woman said, "I feel honoured to participate with a company that is developing the community. I look forward to Vuk' Africa's expansion so it can help employ more people."

The next training programme will begin in May 2012.

NEW IDEA WE'RE "COOKING" UP



A meat and vegetables mixture you can dish up and enjoy with new friends

We're thinking of offering something unique on our VA tours: cooking lessons. Visitors will get a chance to learn how to prepare their own traditional Zulu food — and they'll enjoy eating it together with community locals.



Three cast-iron cooking pots awaiting action on your next Vuk' Africa tour

We'll provide differ-

ent types of food on our tours, such as famous steamed bread, *imifino* (spinach), *stiff pap*, (firm porridge) and African chicken stew. Look for more on this brand new VA feature in our next newsletter.

Friends and supporters: Please share your views about this new **facebook** idea on our new Facebook page. We'd love to hear what you think.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Vuk-Africa-Tours/129459200430308>

TAKE PART IN OUR BEYOND SELF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Beyond Self Scholarship Program (BSSP) is the new initiative, established in 2010, that provides education scholarships to orphans, vulnerable children, and youth. By February 2012, BSSP hopes to provide 20 scholarships to 20 vulnerable children.

We announced in our last newsletter that Tim Brown (from Tim Brown Tours) has joined with Vuk' Africa to help raise funds for children in need by visiting "privileged" schools to ask kids there to donate at least R10 every month from their pocket money.

VA asks you to please help us help children in need by donating at least R100 a month to BSSP. Your monthly donations will go a long way toward transforming the lives of many young people living in the Valley. Don't miss this timely opportunity to help change the lives of young people, giving them the chance to gain a good education that will help to improve their future development. We thank you. Contact the office to coordinate your donation to BSSP.

Special Gratitudes to Our Stars All of us at Vuk' Africa are most grateful to our many partners who continually refer people to us for tours. During the last six months, the number of tours has increased by 8 percent, which is a significant increase, compared to the same period last year. Our sincere thanks go to:

- ★ Intrepid
- ★ Abanga Africa
- ★ Loving South Africa
- ★ Scandi Africa
- ★ Mission Travel
- ★ Town and Country Tours

That's it. Until next time, *salani kahle* (stay well).

We are the Vuk' Africa team . . .

Nosipho, Vusi, and Thulile

Not merely a tour operator, Vuk' Africa is a cultural tourism organisation that seeks to empower, develop, and showcase developing communities in South Africa.